

29 September 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Chief, Management & Planning Group
Information Management Staff, DO

STAT

FROM : J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief, DCI History Staff

SUBJECT : Request for information on the escape
of five German general officer POWs in
1945

1. I shall enclose a letter, with four attachments, from the U.S. Army Center of Military History concerning a French lawyer's request for information about the escape of five German general officer POWs in France in 1945.

2. I would be grateful if you could see whether the OSS Archives in CIA's custody have any information that I can send Maitre Guy Fleury in response to his inquiry.

J. Kenneth McDonald

Attachments

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE CHIEF OF MILITARY HISTORY AND THE CENTER OF
MILITARY HISTORY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314

DAMH-HSF

16 AUG 1982

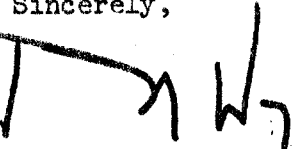
Dr. J. Kenneth McDonald
History Staff
316 Ames
CIA
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Dr. McDonald:

The inclosed request for information is forwarded as a matter pertaining to your agency.

The writer has been informed of this referral.

Sincerely,



ROBERT N. WAGGONER
Colonel, FA
Chief, Historical
Services Division

TRANSLATION
by J. Mehl

Guy Fleury

Law Office
Société D'Avocats
40 Boulevard Felix-Grat Laval

10 June 1982

Sirs:

On the recommendation of the Military Attaché of the US Embassy I permit myself to ask you a question which interests me.

In 1945 I was a 2nd Lt with the French 94th Regiment of Infantry from which one battalion was detached and put at the disposal of the American commander for guarding German prisoners at Camp Musanne (Sarthe). In February or March five general officers escaped from Camp Musanne.

On my own initiative I investigated the conditions of the escape of these five generals and I was able to learn that they were transported from France to Switzerland in order to cross the frontier. I have now retired and I plan to write a novel about this. However, from the beginning I have had doubts about the real character of this escape and I have the problem of learning if it could have taken place with the complicity of the American authorities. The Colonel commanding the camp was Colonel Kauffman (I cannot guarantee the spelling). I mention this to facilitate your research. Are you in a position to state if this escape was real or simulated?

I would think that with the passage of time you would no longer be constrained by problems of military secrets.

Hoping that you can satisfy my curiosity.

With my best regards.

G. Fleury

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE CHIEF OF MILITARY HISTORY AND THE CENTER OF
MILITARY HISTORY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314

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16 AUG 1982

Mr. Guy Fleury
Societe D'Avocats
40 Boulevard Felix-Grat
53003 Laval, France

Dear Mr. Fleury:

This is in reply to your letter of 10 June 1982 requesting information on the escape of five German generals from a POW camp at Mussane (Sarthe) in February or March 1945.

An examination of our sources such as Major K. W. Hechler's The Enemy Side of the Hill: The 1945 Background on Interrogation of German Commanders fails to reveal any information on the escape from Camp Mussane.

We are referring your letter to the Modern Military Field Branch, Military Archives Division, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, DC 20409, and the History Staff of the CIA, Washington, DC 20505 (Custodians of OSS Records), for whatever assistance they can provide. It is possible that the Militargeschichtliches Forschungsamt 7800 Freiburg im Breisgau, Kaiser-Joseph-Strasse 262, Federal Republic of Germany, has additional information and you may wish to write to that office.

We trust this information will be helpful. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

ROBERT N. WAGGONER
Colonel, FA
Chief, Historical
Services Division

CF:
NARS-NNMF
✓ CIA